

Michigan Department of Education Office of Special Education & Early Intervention Services
TEMPORARY APPROVAL AS A RESOURCE PROGRAM TEACHER
Policy & Criteria

An option in NCLB allows a teacher to be highly qualified if participating in an alternative route to certification as defined at 34 C.F.R. §200.56 (a)(2)(ii). This will apply to persons under Special Education Personnel Approval as defined under R 340.1783 of the Administrative Rules for Special Education who are only lacking the special education endorsement for the given assignment but have met all other requirements set forth for Special Education Teachers to be Highly Qualified.

The timeline for meeting these requirements is contingent upon the date of employment under temporary approval as a special education teacher. If hired prior to the first day of school in the 2003-04 school year and working under temporary or continuing temporary approval the teacher must meet the requirements by the end of the 2005-06 school year. All other candidates **may only function under a temporary or continuing temporary approval for three years effective on the date of hire for that position within the school district to be considered "Highly Qualified."**

POLICY

1. A fully qualified resource program teacher will hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate showing a special education endorsement in at least one area of special education.
2. Temporary approval is granted to a requesting LEA/PSA/ISD/State Agency for a time period of not more than one school year.
3. Temporary approvals are requested only when the teacher is employed in the position for which the request is intended.
4. Temporary approval is granted retroactively to the beginning of the school year in which the request was received by the Michigan Department of Education or the date of employment in the position for which emergency approval was requested, whichever is later. The expiration date occurs at the end of the school year for which it has been granted.
5. A request for approval must be received by the Michigan Department of Education during the school year (July 1 to June 30) in which the effective date applies. Approval requests received after June 30 of the applicable school year will not be processed.
6. Temporary approval is not transferable from one school district to the next.
7. Temporary approval is not granted to teachers in private schools and other agencies not included in the definition of special education programs and services in the school code of 1976, section 380.6(7).
8. Temporary approval for special education teaching positions for other state departments such as the Michigan Family Independence Agency, Michigan Department of Community Health, Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Corrections are granted without posting due to Civil Service policies.
9. A fee of \$50.00 will be charged to the applicant for all emergency approvals in teaching positions, pursuant to MCL 380.1538. The emergency approval will be conditionally approved pending payment of the fee.

CRITERIA

1. The candidate must hold a valid Michigan teaching certificate.
2. The employing Superintendent must certify that the district conducted a search for fully qualified personnel and that no certified teacher, holding full approval or endorsement for the position, was available at the time of the assignment.
3. Temporary approval is granted so that the candidate may earn a special education endorsement on their Michigan teaching certificate.
4. The candidate who is lacking an endorsement in at least one area of special education must be willing to get accepted into the appropriate university/college special education program of training. **Acceptance into the program of training must be accomplished prior to the candidate signing the approval request form.** This candidate must complete 6 semester hours of credit toward full approval between September 1 and August 31 of each school year, to receive continuing temporary approval for the following school year.

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PROCEDURES

The employer (LEA/ISD/State Agency-Facility) must:

1. Initiate the request by completing the Emergency Approval for Resource Program Teacher form. The following information **MUST** be completed:
 - Candidate and Assignment information (ISD will complete code numbers) See Policy #6
 - Questions 1,3 and 4 (Attach documentation)
2. Forward all information to ISD; retain a copy for your records.

The ISD will:

1. Determine if the request is accurate and complete.
2. Forward a copy of the request form and all attachments to the university/college.

The University/College will:

1. Indicate whether or not the candidate is currently enrolled in a program working toward the appropriate endorsement.
2. Complete the Program Verification form (PV), retain a copy (and all other information sent by the ISD) and send a copy of the PV form to the ISD.

The ISD will:

1. Review form PV.
2. Complete question 2 on request form.
3. Submit request electronically to MDE-OSE/EIS.
4. Print off first billing letter that is automatically generated after submission.

MDE-OSE/EIS will:

1. Send the second billing letter to ISD, if necessary. See Policy item #8.

The ISD will:

1. Distribute a copy of the second billing letter to the local school district if one is sent.

The employer (LEA/PSA/ISD/State Agency-Facility) must:

1. Distribute a copy of the billing letter(s) to the candidate

The ISD will:

1. Print off Approval letter from the online approvals system once the bill is paid.
2. Distribute a copy of the approval letter to the employer.

The employer (LEA/PSA/ISD/State Agency-Facility) must:

1. Distribute a copy to the candidate.